

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 17, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14 and 17-22 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 7, 8, 14 and 17 are independent claims.

Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 7 has now been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and accordingly this claim should now be allowable.

Each of claims 2-4 and 6 has been amended so as to be dependent on claim 7, so that these claims should similarly now be allowable.

Claim 8 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 8 has now been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and accordingly this claim should now be allowable.

Claims 9 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 14 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 14 has now been rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and accordingly this claim should now be allowable.

Further, claim 10 has been amended to render it dependent on claim 14, and accordingly this claim should now be allowable. In addition, each of claims 11 and 12 dependent directly or indirectly on claim 10 should now be allowable for the same reason.

Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by RIENER.

However, the only parts of RIENER that can be considered as connector portions resisting axial rotation are shown in Figure 1d and constitute a ball-and-socket joint 18 for attaching the femur 4a to a stationary frame 19. Such a ball-and-socket joint does not make use of an axial connector part engaging within an axial receiving passage to resist axial rotation.

Claim 17 has been amended so as to specify that the first joint portion is formed with an axial connector part for engaging within an axial receiving passage in a first shaft portion so as to resist axial rotation. The shape of the connector part and complimentary receiving passage is such as to resist axial rotation, whilst enabling the first joint portion to be readily detached from a first shaft portion in such a manner

that it can be replaced by a fresh first joint portion after a surgical procedure has been completed and before a new surgical procedure is to be carried out using the same aid. Such a feature is of particular practical advantage in use of the aid, as it enables the aid to be reused for a number of different surgical procedures, with only a portion of the aid having to be replaced between procedures. Furthermore, such an arrangement would not be considered obvious to a person skilled in the art from a reading of RIENER, since RIENER does not teach the need for ready detachment of a replaceable part of the aid.

Accordingly, claim 17 should now be in order for allowance. Claim 18 has been correspondingly amended, and should be similarly allowable in view of its dependence on claim 17.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended so as to append them to claim 17, and should similarly be allowable. In addition, claims 21 and 22 should be allowable in view of the dependence on claim 20 for the same reason.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14 and 17-22 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. It is therefore requested that all of claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14 and 17-22 be allowed, and that this application be passed to issuance.

If, for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is

respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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